

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2010

The City Council Transportation Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 22nd day of July, 2010, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Councilmember Cubberley and Chairman Quinn
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Councilmembers Butler and Kovach
OTHERS PRESENT:	Ms. Susan Connors, Director of Planning and Community Development Mr. Angelo Lombardo, Traffic Engineer Ms. Betty Love, Assistant to Doug Myers, CART Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works Ms. Linda Price, Revitalization Manager Mr. Cody Ponder, Grants Specialist II for OU Mr. David Riesland, Assistant Traffic Engineer Ms. Kathryn Walker, Assistant City Attorney Mr. Wayne Wickman, OU Transit Operations Manager Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Technician IV Ms. Felicia Burkley, OU Student Ms. Jennifer Cook, OU Student

DISCUSSION REGARDING ACOG RAIL CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS USING SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM URBANIZED AREA (STP-UZA) FUNDS.

Ms. Susan Connors, Director of Planning and Community Development, said in April the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) solicited applications for TIGER II Discretionary Funds in the amount of \$600,000,000 for transportation projects and \$35,000,000 of that is available for Transportation Planning Grants. She said the application deadline is July 26th and on July 6th the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) called a meeting of the communities who applied for the TIGER I Grant to see if they wanted to apply for the TIGER II Grant. Ms. Connors said Norman was unsuccessful in getting funds for the TIGER I Grant because no preparatory work had been done at that time.

During the meeting, ACOG presented a second option, which would be to request an amendment to the FFY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and this option was preferable to proceeding with another TIGER grant application by a majority of the communities. She said the TIP could be amended to use \$1,000,000 for an Alternatives Analysis for the rail corridors as they are identified in the Fixed Guideway Study. She said Norman's share would be \$30,975 and ACOG would like a commitment from each community by early August, even though Cities would not have to pay their share until 2012.

Chairman Quinn and Councilmember Cubberley said it would be easier to budget in FYE 2012 than FYE 2011 and it makes sense to move forward and make that commitment. Due to time constraints, the Committee decided to bring the item forward to Council for their review at the Conference meeting on July 27, 2010.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated July 15, 2010, from Susan F. Connors, Director of Planning and Community Development Department, to Chairman and Members Transportation Committee

DISCUSSION REGARDING CART RIDERSHIP REPORT INCLUDING SAFERIDE AND EXTENDED SERVICE.

Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator, said ridership increased 1% over last year and Saturday Service increased 8%. He said CART has received three of the five new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) busses and will be hosting a media presentation in mid-August and the Mayor and Council will be invited to attend. He said CART is also purchasing six new 26 foot and 29 foot CNG busses for CARTaccess. Councilmember Cubberley said it will be interesting to see how much noise is reduced and Mr. Myers agreed and said there would also be no more black smog being emitted.

Mr. Myers said the University has been subsidizing the price of CNG, but July 1, 2012, they will no longer be doing that. Chairman Quinn asked if CART would be increasing fares and Mr. Myers said it is a possibility.

Mr. Cody Ponder, Grants Specialist II for OU, said two years ago CART had applied for funding to get Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) on all the busses as a management tool and customer interface tool. He said the company providing the AVL is Syncromatics and they are innovative and customer friendly. He said any added technology that does require hardware, is free. He said CART Staff can view a detailed map of all vehicles in real time, which provides stop information and more precise arrival times. He said Staff can access vehicle route history including the number of passengers boarding or getting off at any stop location, when the bus was at a particular stop location, and the time it proceeded from that stop location. He said there is a dispatch screen that allows multiple functions to aid in dispatching vehicles.

Mr. Ponder said the system has automated passenger counting (APC), which will help Staff to determine which stops are being utilized. Councilmember Cubberley asked if this was done with a laser and Mr. Ponder said yes, there is a laser beam at each door and access to the information is available immediately. He said Staff can generate reports that are automatically printed on an Excel spreadsheet. Mr. Ponder said CART is the first transit system in Oklahoma to have this technology. Chairman Quinn asked if the lasers were hidden so they could not be vandalized and Mr. Ponder said they are not even noticeable.

Mr. Ponder said the system has a customer interface available at www.cartgps.com where customers can view a live map or select stops for specific arrival predictions. He said the service is available on the web via cell browser (also has an I-phone app), text message, or automated phone system. He said citizens can sign up to receive texts or e-mails that informs them how far the bus is from their stop.

Items submitted for the record

1. Norman CART Routes: Total Weekday Passenger Trips, FY 2009-10; Average Daily Passenger Trips, FY 2009-10; CARTaccess, FY 2009-10; Same Day and Zone Two; Weekday Bicycle Totals 2009-10; Saturday Fixed Route; and Average Daily Trips – Saturday Totals
2. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Cleveland Area Rapid Transit Syncromatics Automated Vehicle Location and Automated Passenger County Systems"

DISCUSSION REGARDING ROBINSON STREET AND I-35 INTERCHANGE NORTHEAST RAMP – FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.

Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, said about thirty days ago, Staff became aware the City of Norman has the opportunity for federal funding and Staff had to act quickly to determine which projects qualified. He said projects have to be shovel ready and Staff identified one project that fit all the criteria, which is the interchange improvements at the northeast corner of Robinson Street and I-35. He said there is more money available through ACOG than was anticipated in FYE 10 and that money will roll into FYE 11, which gives Staff more time to apply. He said this project has been discussed for over three years as part of the University North Park Tax Increment District (UNPTIF) improvements and some UNPTIF funds will be used for the project.

Mr. Angelo Lombardo, Traffic Engineer, provided a brief history of UNPTIF funds used for public improvements. He said the Robinson Street and I-35 Interchange Modification Project fits all the criteria for getting the federal funds as preliminary plans have been completed, environmental clearance has been granted, minimal utility relocations are required, and no new right-of-way is required. He said the next steps would be for Council to adopt a resolution requesting the funds, secure funds for engineering design services, complete construction plans, and secure \$1.5 million for the local match of the estimated \$2.5 million construction cost.

Mr. Lombardo displayed a model of peak hour traffic conditions with the proposed design and Chairman Quinn said from a layman's look at the model, it appears to be one heck of a mess. He asked if from a Traffic Engineer's standpoint, did it make good sense and Mr. Lombardo said yes, short of reconstructing the interchange he did not see a better way. He said it will relieve Robinson Street congestion and Councilmember Cubberley agreed, but said it will take drivers awhile to get used to the intersection. Mr. Lombardo said the plans do include a significant signing scheme to direct traffic and the project will complete the roadway improvements originally identified for the Robinson and I-35 Interchange, which is the widening necessary for a dedicated left turn lane.

Mr. Lombardo said Council will need to adopt a resolution to let ACOG and ODOT know that Norman will pursue funding for the project. Staff will need to identify a source of funding and secure the money for engineering and design. Mr. O'Leary said this project is as beneficial to Robinson Street and I-35 as it is to University North Park and Norman needs to act quickly as other cities will be vying for the funding.

Mr. O'Leary said Staff would like to present the plans and funding options to Council in a Study Session as soon as possible prior to presenting it at a Council meeting.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "City of Norman University North Park TIF Transportation Improvements," City Council Transportation Committee, July 22, 2010
2. Draft resolution

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.